

CSR, Sustainability, Ethics & Governance

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Dictionary of Corporate Social Responsibility

CSR, Sustainability, Ethics and
Governance

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the sick, destitute or widows. An important function that clan associations served at that time was the offering of funeral services. Rituals and prayers were conducted for the deceased and it was common for the clan associations to arrange for the remains of these migrants to be repatriated to China. As the immigrants settle in their host societies and become the respective countries' citizens and as family units emerged, clan associations initiate educational projects and served as registry of marriages for new couples.

Throughout the year, clan associations organize festive and religious celebrations and prayers; they thus reproduce their traditional cultural environment in host societies. Celebrations were an opportunity to network with fellow countrymen and reinforced their cultural identity in a foreign land, giving them a sense of familiarity and comfort. To protect their members, disputes between members could be brought to the clan association for settlement while problems with other dialect groups could be settled between representatives of the respective clan associations.

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Christian Ethics and CSR

Cristian R. Loza Adui

Christian ethics reflects the ethical tradition of Christianity, a monotheistic religion spread in the world starting approximately 2000 years ago. It is mainly based in the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth (Christ), but it embraces also teachings of the apostles and the experiences of the first Christian communities contained in the New Testament, the wisdom contained in the Old Testament, and the different developments of the Christian living tradition [1].

The relation between the Christian tradition and corporate social responsibility (CSR) is anchored in the understanding of the value of responsibility. For Christians, responsibility—as expression of love—is multidimensional; it is simultaneously

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oriented towards God, towards oneself, towards the others and towards the creation. This can be better clarified from three different perspectives.

From a macro-level perspective, and especially with the advent of the industrialization in the nineteenth century, the Catholic church—and also other Christian churches—started to develop teachings to rethink the changing social conditions and emerging social issues, e.g. the complementarity of capital and work, wealth creation with social justice, the care and protection of the natural environment, etc. Catholic social teachings traditionally focused on macroeconomic and social issues referring only indirectly to business responsibilities; however, recent developments address explicitly the social responsibility of business as an ethical responsibility linked directly to the purpose of organizations [2].

From a meso-level perspective, corporations are—within the Christian tradition—considered communities of persons that bear an economic and a social function characterized by their capacity to serve the common good of society [3]. This common good principle has been presented in the literature on CSR as normative grounding of the stakeholder theory and social responsibility [4].

From a micro-level perspective, the relation between Christian ethics and CSR is anchored in an anthropological challenge: to concretize a particular personal faith into socio-economic practices; thus, to make use of faith and reason, as complementary cognitive paths that orient action, while living and working as a Christian inside organizations [5].

Altogether, the Christian ethical tradition can be considered a corpus of knowledge oriented to guide human behavior towards the good and the truth and therefore towards its integral development.

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